

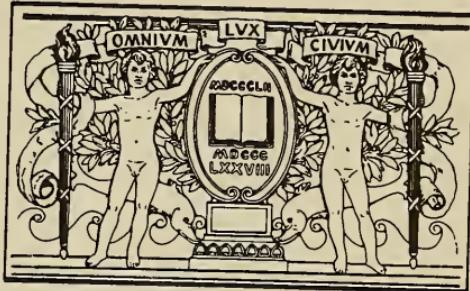
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City Document—No. 1.

ADDRESS

OF THE

HON. THEODORE OTIS,
M A Y O R,

TO

The City Council of Roxbury,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

TWO BRANCHES IN CONVENTION,

January 9, 1860.



ROXBURY:
JOHN M. HEWES, PRINTER.
1860.

City of Roxbury.

IN COMMON COUNCIL, JANUARY 9, 1860.

ORDERED, That one thousand copies of the Address of His Honor the Mayor be printed for the use of the City Council, and for distribution among the citizens.

Sent down for concurrence.

FRANKLIN WILLIAMS, *Clerk.*

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, JAN. 9, 1860.

Concurred.

JOSEPH W. TUCKER, *City Clerk.*

A D D R E S S.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

THE swiftly gliding weeks of the *old*, have again brought us to the threshold of the *new* year, and we are assembled in accordance with the provisions of our charter to organize the Government for 1860.

I desire to express my grateful acknowledgments to my fellow-citizens for their gratifying approval of my past services, by a reëlection to this responsible and honorable office. Hoping that the last year's experience of its varied duties may render my endeavors more beneficial to the interests of the City, I shall cheerfully devote my time and whatever ability I possess, to an impartial, conscientious and faithful effort, for the common good. Having taken upon ourselves the oaths of office, our constituents have a right to demand that the important trusts committed to us shall be honestly, diligently, and (to the measure of our ability,) wisely performed.

Coming from different sections of the City, of various parties, sects and callings, we meet here to exhibit an impartiality, disinterestedness and liberality of sentiment and action, that shall be wholly above and unbiased by either. And when I see before me so many whose tried fidelity and devotion to the best interests of the City, I

have with the greatest satisfaction witnessed, and others who I doubt not will be animated with the same zeal, the future is full of confidence and hope.

The general character and scope of policy in municipal administration for any one year, must be somewhat limited, and in a manner determined by that of the previous year. Unfinished undertakings, plans and beginnings, are to be carried forward to completion or abandoned. Thus our predecessors of 1858 finding Tremont Street, in Boston, 100 feet in width, and in Roxbury but sixty, determined to make the street of the full width to the junction of Cabot Street, to avoid any appearance of a projection, and from thence eighty feet.

A plan was made by the Engineer, and a prospective line run from Boston to Wait's Mill, Washington Street, a number of estates upon the street purchased, and the buildings moved back. Here was a policy just entered upon, and one fifth of the expense incurred. The bill had been drawn, and must either be endorsed or allowed to go to protest. The Government of 1859, I believe without a dissenting voice, endorsed the measure. The important question then was, Shall it be widened at once, or *gradually*, during ten years, more or less? Here was a strip of front land three-quarters of a mile long and twenty feet wide, containing nearly two acres, to be added to the street. Fifty-four buildings, of different kinds and of different value,—dwelling-houses, brick stores, manufactories, shops, &c., were to be moved back or cut off; two stone bridges were to be built, and a large part of the distance to be filled up a depth of from two to eight feet. The grade of the street had not been fixed and established, and constant claims were made upon the City for damage, by reason of frequent changes

in the grade, rendering it necessary to raise or lower the buildings. This being a main avenue, all public and private streets leading into it must conform to its grade, and it became vastly important that that grade should be right.

It was obvious that the price of land would immediately increase, and equally so that to cut off one estate and allow an adjoining one to project twenty feet, would be no advantage to the estate cut off, but if all were cut off, or moved back at the same time, all would be benefited. An immediate widening of the street would accommodate the public travel, increase the value of property, induce owners of estates to improve them with a better class of buildings, and offer to others tempting opportunities for investment.

In view of all these circumstances, there seemed no doubt of the wisdom of completing the undertaking at once, and the Committee on Streets, having the matter in charge, were of opinion that each case of damage should be carefully examined, the value of land ascertained, the price at which the buildings could be moved, and these facts being obtained, that it would then be best to see if the owner would consent to take a fair price for his damage, rather than exercise the strong hand of the law, and cut the buildings off. The City in widening a street has no power to move a man's buildings back. This must be done by negociation, if at all, and, in many cases, it was a saving to the City to adopt this course. At Tremont Place, for instance, a saving was made to the City of at least from \$3,000 to \$5,000, by purchasing an estate in the rear, and then moving eight buildings to prevent the cutting off and almost destruction of the five fronting on Tremont Street. This

mode of conducting the business required the constant occupation of some intelligent, firm, honest man, well informed as to the value of property on the street, and the practicability and expense of doing the work, and whose judgment would not be likely to vary with the pressure of interested parties. The right man for the service being on the Committee, the rest of its members employed him to take charge of the details in connection with the Mayor and another member, as a sub-committee, and thus the best mode to be adopted, and all the details as to value of each lot of land, expense of moving buildings, &c., were as faithfully and patiently investigated as in a private transaction.

One hundred and twenty-six contracts were entered into by the City, seventy-seven thousand seven hundred and three square feet of land have been added to the street, at an average cost of forty-eight cents per square foot, amounting to \$37,000. Fifty-four buildings have been moved back, two stone bridges built, damage to particular estates paid, street filled up, regraded, and buildings raised or lowered to conform to grade, all amounting to \$28,000 more, making the total expense \$65,000. This, although a large sum, is believed to be much less than the aggregate expense would have been had it been done yearly during a number of years.

It gives me pleasure to bear testimony to the fair and honorable dealing of the abutters and parties connected with the various transactions, and to state that not a case of litigation has arisen during the year.

I feel that great credit is due the different members of the Government, for their steady and persistent efforts in carrying out the measure, and particularly to the gentle-

men of the Committee who were connected with its details.

I have thus, Gentlemen, with some fear of wearying your patience, given the reasons and manner of conducting an improvement of greater magnitude, all things considered, and carried forward with more economy, despatch and satisfaction to the abutters and the public generally, than usually falls to the opportunity of any City Government to accomplish.

SEWERAGE.

The important subject of sewerage has received much and constant attention, theoretically, for a number of years. Repeated surveys have been made, and valuable information accumulated on the subject. It seemed, therefore, the last year, that the time had come for putting some well digested plan into operation in that part of the City calling most loudly for relief.

The pestilential accumulations of filth and stagnant, indictable water in the vicinity of Plymouth and Fellowes Streets, left no doubt on the minds of the authorities of Boston and Roxbury that a joint and imperative labor and duty devolved upon them. The Committees having the business in charge at once agreed to recommend to their respective Cities the raising of the grade of Plymouth Street to that of Northampton and Eustis Streets, and the construction of a substantial brick sewer of sufficient capacity its whole length, and to be continued down Harrison Avenue and off into the channel through Dedham Street, each City doing all the work on its own territory. This recommendation was confirmed and immediately put in execution on both sides. Thus

securing to Roxbury, through the honorable and liberal policy of Boston, an outlet for the drainage of about thirty acres of our territory at much less trouble and expense than we could have obtained in any other manner.

In consequence of this arrangement, each City has since made Plymouth Street sixty feet in width, it formerly being but fifty. Here was a street belonging to the City built on the marsh level, and valuable buildings located on it, where high tides would ebb and flow, and the expense of raising the street *nine feet*, and the buildings also, to be borne by the City ; all the result of not having had the grades of the streets established long since. It has proved an expensive caution for the present and future Governments not to allow streets or buildings to be built too low. This street will now serve as a sample or pattern street for that locality, and none should be built of less height. A better class of buildings will be erected now than would have been had the street not been raised. A good brick sewer, three feet by two feet and four inches, has been built in this street to Eustis Street, and one up Mall Street, eighteen inches in diameter, and one up Short to Sumner Street, two feet in diameter, all by contract, and, at the same time, it is believed, thoroughly and at a satisfactory price. The buildings on Plymouth Street have been raised, for the most part, others moved back, and a large part of the filling put in. The finishing up and completing of these various undertakings will require your consideration and attention.

Four hundred feet of the outlet of the main sewer, five by three and a half feet, of brick and cement, has been constructed from the dock of the City Wharf up Davis Street, which will receive all the sewerage of the eastern

part of the City. This was a very difficult and expensive work, it being at a depth of fifteen feet, and most of it in a bed of quicksand, with a great flow of water, and the work to be done during low tide.

One other sewer in Fellowes Street has been constructed, through Northampton Street and leading into the main sewer above described, two feet by eighteen inches, of timber and plank. The expediency of extending the main sewer up Davis Street to the foot of Mount Pleasant, will be a matter for your consideration.

The proportion of the expense of the construction of sewers to be borne by abutters and parties immediately and remotely interested, and the proportion to be borne by the City, will require your careful investigation and deliberation. The amount thus far expended in the construction of sewers is about ten thousand dollars, a part of which will be paid back by abutters and those using them.

The subject of drainage for the west part of the City will demand your early and best efforts, as one of much pressing importance to the health and prosperity of that section of the City, now rapidly increasing in population and business.

HIGHWAYS.

The expenditures the last year upon the streets have been large, larger probably than in any other year, but many of them have been of a permanent character. Many streets have been brought to the grade established by the Engineer, and will not need changing again; such are a portion of Warren Street, Sumner Street, Short Street, Eliot Square, Parker, south of Washington Street, and a portion north. Centre Street was thoroughly McAdamized, also East Street. Washington

Street was gravelled for nearly half a mile. The whole length of Tremont Street has been graded, paved from Ruggles Street nearly to the Boston line, on the east side of the Horse Railroad track, edge-stone set, large amount of brick sidewalk laid, and projections removed.

	1859.	1858.
The amount of brick paving,	4,562 yds.	
Block stone, for crossings and driveways,	2,613 "	963
Round stone paving, for gut- ters, &c., on Tremont St.,	8,000 "	2,081
Curb stone set,	21,515 feet,	9,035
Whole amount of expenditures are about	\$37,000.	

The gravel bank that was purchased on Shawmut Avenue, containing three acres, at \$12,000, proves to contain excellent road material, and enables the Commissioner to select his material so as to build and repair the streets of the very best material. And he is entitled to the full credit of having done his work in the most substantial and thorough manner.

Short Street, from Dudley to Sumner Street, has been opened and nearly built the past season, affording a much needed local accommodation to that part of the City, and affording a safeguard against the spread of fire. The expense will be about \$10,000.

For a number of years petitions have been before the Government to have Heath Street laid out across the low land, from corner of Parker Street, to meet Highland Street. The subject was taken into consideration early this spring, and as it was believed the interest of the City would be better promoted and most of the petitioners be better suited, the direction of the continuance was

changed so as to give the residents of Heath Street the most direct route to the City Hall, schools, and churches, &c., where they had most occasion to travel. The wisdom of this route has been sanctioned by the County Commissioners approving the route and authorising its construction, and it is now under contract to be finished next June. That it will greatly increase the value of property in Heath Street, which is now almost cut off from the City by its unfavorable approaches, is confidently anticipated.

The continuation of Plymouth Street to the corner of Dudley and Warren Streets, which has been recommended twice or three times, will call for your careful consideration. Should the owners of property on the route appreciate its advantages sufficiently, and manifest a commendable liberality, I doubt not it will meet your favorable regard.

The Brookline Horse Railroad has been put in operation during the past year, and the extension of the Warren Street track to Grove Hall determined upon. When this last is completed, there will be very little of our territory more than half a mile from Horse Railroad facilities. a mode of travelling more safe, comfortable, cheap and convenient than any other for public accommodation.

Roxbury, from the unfavorable location of the Boston and Providence Railroad, has heretofore derived very little advantage from railroads. It is now, by the Metropolitan Horse Railroad, as well, if not better accommodated, than any place in this vicinity, and it is matter of congratulation that that road is in the management of gentlemen so deserving our confidence.

GRADES OF STREETS.

The necessity of establishing suitable grades to our Streets without longer delay, was so fully brought home to the mind of the Government the past year, that it left no doubt what ought to be done. Many streets were known to be several feet below their proper grade, so much so that to drain them with suitable descent, would make it necessary to build the drains on top of the streets. To allow buildings to be erected on such streets at their present grades, would involve the City in heavy damages in future. Plymouth Street, already referred to, was one of this class. The old maxim, that "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," seemed as true here as in morals. It was determined, therefore, to employ Wm. L. Dearborn, Esq., as Chief Engineer, to establish the grades of the several streets, and also for the sewers. That work has been nearly completed. A part of this work has been passed upon by the last Government, and the balance will be laid before you in a short time for your consideration.

SCHOOLS.

By the Report of the School Committee which has just been distributed, it will appear that the Schools are represented in their usual flourishing condition. Two substantial brick additions have been made to both the Dearborn and Comins, nearly doubling their capacities. Some slight change has been made in the mode of classifying and arranging these schools, which it is hoped will give increased satisfaction to their patrons.

One marked improvement in school accommodations has taken place in collecting all the pupils within the

buildings owned by the City and suited for school-rooms. Previously there were three or four divisions poorly provided for, in hired rooms. There is no pressing want of further school accommodation at this time.

The number of teachers in all our schools is	77
Number of pupils,	3,581
Cost of education, exclusive of buildings,	\$35,137
Average per scholar,	\$9.80

It has long seemed to me, Gentlemen, and I desire to call your attention as well as the attention of the School Committee to the matter, that we need in this City a school, where the simple branches only are taught, viz: Reading, Spelling, Writing, and the four first rules of Arithmetic on the slate. It is well known that many of our backward scholars leave the grammar school not able to write, and not as well prepared for the duties of life, as they would have been had their time been devoted to more simple studies while there. Their parents are too dependent on their labor to allow them to remain long enough in the grammar school to be benefitted by it. Mental arithmetic, grammar, or even geography is not what is best suited to them ;—they are not interested in either, and they make little or no progress and soon leave the school ignorant. Could not 50 or 100 such pupils be taught in half the time and at half the expense than they are now, and advanced further towards the end sought—a useful education ?

The scattered divisions and departments also of our High School need consolidating into one harmonious whole, under one principal, where the classification will be more perfect, the standard of scholarship advanced, and the expense of instruction lessened from \$3000 to \$2000 per annum.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

I am happy in believing, Gentlemen, that our Fire Department is in a most efficient and reliable condition. Composed of a body of strong, active, ambitious young men, its services are prompt and reliable on all occasions. The Chief Engineer and his assistants are entitled to warm praise for infusing a high degree of order and decorum among the members, and they should not fail to receive our encouragement and support, for the cordial manner in which they have seconded the efforts of their officers.

The amount of property destroyed the past year is so small as to excite enquiry for some adequate cause.

	Alarms.	Loss.	Insurance.
In 1856 there were	82	\$36,710	\$18,346
" 1857 " "	53	27,675	16,835
" 1858 " "	120	45,900	30,060
" 1859 " "	66	13,250	23,570

This amount of loss, you perceive, is less than one third of the previous year, and less than half of the year previous to that, and while in all the previous years named, the insurance is but one half the loss, last year the insurance was double the loss. These facts are somewhat accidental, but much may fairly be ascribed to the improved condition and efficiency of the Department, increase of reservoirs and hydrants, and partly no doubt, to the energy, vigilance and success of the Police and Night Watch.

A substantial brick Engine House has been erected on Eustis Street, in a style similar to the one previously erected at the corner of Dudley and Warren Streets, alike creditable to the architect and the city.

Three spacious brick reservoirs have been constructed at points most needing them, and eight hundred feet of leading hose have been furnished.

The ordinary expenses of the Department are \$13,600
New Engine House, 2,700
Reservoirs, 2,000
\$18,300

This expenditure although large, much of it being extraordinary, may be considered judiciously made, if it is, to a great extent, the cause of the gratifying result of the small loss of property during the year. The policy of making any reasonable expenditure to keep the Department thoroughly furnished and equipped, has been the one adopted ; and then relying on the generosity, ambition, and sense of duty of its members, to win the esteem and approbation of their fellow citizens.

There is now a petition before the Government, asking some encouragement to stationary steam power for extinguishing fire by providing hose. I recommend this subject to your careful attention.

Steam Fire Engines are winning favor in most places, particularly where the buildings are high and thickly crowded together. From the hilly nature of our territory and the moderate supply of water at many points, it has not heretofore seemed advisable to introduce one here. The quantity of water they are able to pour upon a fire at any height, in the hottest or coldest weather, gives them great advantage over hand power. One Steam Engine in place of one of our hand engines, would probably give us double the service, at the same expense ; and whenever it is expedient to incur this expense, I would recommend the change. The reputa-

tion that the present Department enjoys, will preclude the idea of any want of confidence in them, but only show a desire to keep pace with improvement and provide for an increasing population in the cheapest and best manner.

The subject of extending a Cochituate water pipe from the Boston line through Plymouth to Eustis Street, to be used only to extinguish fire, came before the last Council, and, I am happy to say, received a favorable hearing both here and by the authorities of Boston. It is believed to be much the cheapest mode of supplying that locality, underlaid as it is with quicksand at a depth of six or eight feet, making it very expensive to construct reservoirs.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The present mode of organizing, paying and managing our Police and Watch, is probably as good as can be adopted for a city of this size. This Department of the public service is one of very great importance and its proper organization and efficient action have an intimate relation with the good order and welfare of the community. I believe this City has never had in this department of its service, a keener-sighted, more vigilant, honorable and humane set of men. Being entitled to the respect and confidence of the community, who are well disposed towards law and good order, they necessarily carry fear and terror to the vicious and lawless. Their arrest of the offenders in the few cases of burglary, some of them almost as soon as the act was committed, is evidence of their promptness. But their distinguished success early in the spring, in arresting that wanton, secret, fiendish class of offenders, whose appalling offence

was a terror to all, the incendiary, entitles them to the highest praise, for caution, adroitness and sagacity. Let your recollection but call up the frequent alarms one year since from the appalling cry of fire at winter's midnight, and then the consoling fact, that no less than eight of those godless sons of destruction were caught and brought before the court, and you will acknowledge the benefit of a vigilant and energetic Police and Watch. The quiet and good order since is in very marked contrast.

The appointment of an honest, intelligent, laborious and efficient man to the responsible office of Chief Marshal, conferred respectability upon the Department and was an honor to the City. That officer has prepared so full and valuable a report of this year's incidents and labor, that I bespeak for it an attentive perusal when printed, and therefore will detract nothing from its interest by giving its prominent statistics.

ALMSHOUSE.

There are now in the Almshouse thirty inmates, consisting of old people past work, middle aged, incapacitated, either bodily or mentally, and children. All need kind and indulgent treatment, which they have ; and it is creditable to the liberality and humanity of the City, that they are better provided for, fed and clothed, than a large number of the tax payers. There seems little, if any thing, to be done to improve the condition of such, except educating and properly guiding the young, which is attended to.

A large part of the building being unoccupied, a recommendation was made last year, that it be made useful as a place of confinement for truant children.

The necessary alterations have been made and ample provision of house and yard room secured, from which the best results are expected.

It has been found difficult, dangerous, and expensive, to heat the number of apartments necessary, with stoves, the mode heretofore adopted. To overcome these obstacles the Overseers have recently put in operation there, the steam heating apparatus of Messrs. Chubbuck & Son. The result is most satisfactory and gratifying. The saving of fuel is very considerable ; the heat abundant and of the most agreeable quality, and the labor of the house as well as danger from fire largely diminished. Connected with the boiler are the wash-tubs in the lower room, so that all the water is heated by steam and this is made a convenient, comfortable apartment now, in place of the opposite, as before.

The neat, orderly and homelike manner in which Mr. and Mrs. Young conduct the establishment, entitle it to take rank with those most approved.

The number of transient lodgers during the year has been 303. The number sent to the State Almshouse during the same period, 103.

The expenditures for the year, including the improvements referred to, are \$7,900.

There is another class of our citizens to whom I wish to call your considerate and favorable attention early, viz :—Industrious, hard-working men with large families, who absolutely suffer for food and clothing as soon as they fail to get employment. They are just able to live in summer, and cannot lay up any thing. To turn away such, when soliciting employment and stating the condition of their families at this season of the year,

without hope, is the most trying necessity of a public officer.

Last year \$2,000 were appropriated to give employment to such, in blasting off a stone ledge from a lot of land adjoining the Almshouse, now valueless, and breaking the stone up for road material. While there are few houses in the vicinity, it can be safely done and the land made valuable. A like amount appropriated this year, would give bread, clothing, comfort and schooling to many, and I therefore recommend it.

CITY DEBT.

The City Debt, as per account of last year, was \$280,000

Increase this year for the following purposes,

viz :—Building and widening Tremont, Plymouth, Short, Washington and Vernon Streets, \$87,000

Construction of Sewers, 10,000

Building School Houses, 7,000

Purchase of land for gravel bank, 12,000

_____ \$116,000

Total, \$396,000

FOREST HILLS CEMETERY.

The ever increasing prosperity of this consecrated spot must give the highest gratification to its early friends and projectors. Appealing as it does to the best feelings of our nature, the wise and good of the present and all coming time cannot fail to appreciate and be grateful for their services.

To this place of great natural beauty, the taste of the landscape gardener and the genius of the artist are year-

ly adding their contributions ; and as one after another of our fellow citizens, friends or kindred are deposited in this flower garden of the dead, our love and attachment for it increases.

The Commissioners will make their report in February, giving a detailed statement of the year's transactions.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The friends of education in this State, feeling the importance of the subject, procured in 1851 the passage of a law allowing towns and cities to establish Free Public Libraries. Since the passage of that law, a number of cities have availed themselves of its provisions, and the universal testimony as to their success and elevating effect leaves no doubt as to the wisdom of establishing them. We have in this City an Athenæum, possessed of a collection of about 7,000 volumes of valuable books, which would afford a foundation for a free library that would soon be an honor, and of priceless value to the City. My esteemed predecessor in 1857, feeling the great importance of the subject to this City, made a full and elaborate report, after conferring with the Trustees of the Athenæum, who in a most liberal manner offered to give all their books, worth probably \$5,000, and recommended the details of a plan, and an ordinance for carrying it into operation. Most fully agreeing with him in the general features of the plan proposed, I desire to call your serious attention to the subject at this time. Nothing is truer than that liberality begets liberality, and once establish a free public library in this City, and the contributions, donations and bequests to it, by all classes of our citizens, and those away, who were born here and still have a strong attachment to the place,

would soon constitute a valuable library, at trifling expense. The increase of the Free Library in Boston, from 1857 to 1858, was 15,000 volumes ; of this number, almost 10,000 volumes were the free gift of individuals. It is well known to most, doubtless, that the foundation of that library was the munificent bequest of one of its sons in a distant land, with a heart warm with love for his native city. Is it too much to anticipate, that a similar good fortune may be in store for Roxbury ? In fact one such has been made to this city, and in due time its advantages will be enjoyed.

A Free Library is the climax and apex of our great system of popular education. When our sons and daughters leave the High School, let us be able to refer them, for instruction and improvement, to the richly laden shelves of a well selected library, where they will find not only a teacher but a preacher, liberalizing, elevating and Christianizing. If we would keep them from less desirable places of resort, let us make such as the library room attractive and alluring. We owe the privileges of such a library to the large body of devoted public teachers in charge of our schools, for their own improvement and for reference, in teaching their pupils. The expense anticipated would be mainly an annual outlay of some \$1,200 or \$1,500. A sum that we vote, without the least hesitation, for widening a street, changing its grade, or rounding a corner.

STONY BROOK.

No subject of more importance to the City will call for your attention during the year, than that of obtaining a free flow of Stony Brook into the Charles River. This, perhaps you are aware, was formerly a very important

and valuable ship channel, and could be made so now with suitable Legislative assistance. The preliminary steps of advertising a petition have been taken for bringing this matter before the General Court at its present session. I recommend it to your earnest and energetic attention, as a matter of the highest moment, both in its commercial relations and as affecting the health of that part of the town, by preventing unhealthy deposits throughout the entire length of the brook below Tremont Street.

ROXBURY CHANNEL.

Connected with this subject, although in an opposite part of the City, is the Report of our excellent Harbor Master, Capt. Winchester, just published, showing the importance of water communication to our City. Here is a business of nearly half a million dollars done by from five to six hundred vessels. This channel is about five feet deeper on the Boston side than on our own, imperatively demanding deepening on our side. It will be a matter for you to determine what action the City shall take towards it. I am not aware that any thing of the kind has been done previously by the City. How far the deposits from drains may make it her duty to deepen the channel, is an open question.

There is one subject, Gentlemen, to which I desire to call your favorable action—a subject upon which I believe the great mass of our intelligent constituents are in advance of past governments. Children are not allowed to make their school-yards a resort as a play-ground, and if found in the streets, the police are likely to take them in custody. Young lads from six to four-

teen years of age have a great amount of rare sport in them, and they want some suitable, sizeable place, where they can work it off joyously, healthfully, and prepare themselves to become men. I am often asked by parents where they shall direct their children to play.

Physical education has been too much neglected, and it is to be more and more attended to. Let us have, Gentlemen, one or more places—I will not dignify them with the high-sounding title of squares or parks, but play-grounds,—where all, old and young, who have any play in them—and who will acknowledge that he has not?—have a right to resort for a game of foot-ball, cricket, base-ball, or any other out-door, healthy, exciting, manly sport; where a military or fire company can go for a parade, or to exhibit their skill, or to invite their friends from other towns, and not be obliged to pay tribute to a railroad to take them into Boston or to Jamaica Plains. How much better to give, as far as we may, a direction of their playful energies to out-door, fresh air, cold water exercises, than allow them from necessity to seek the confined, poisonous, unhealthy air, of the billiard-room or bowling-alley! The golden time when such places could have been purchased at \$100 per acre, has passed. But this is a golden time to secure *such*, as compared with the price of land fifty or one hundred years hence. When are these places to be had any cheaper or where are they to be had at all, if not now?

Let us provide for our necessities, purchasing on a long credit, and taxing ourselves yearly to pay the interest and a fixed sum of the principal, till the whole is paid, and I have no fear of the complaints of posterity;

but we shall deserve their censure if we do nothing but blame our ancestors.

When we reflect that thirty-four years ago the only public conveyance between this place and Boston was a two horse stage coach, starting once in two hours; blowing a post horn to notify the passengers to be ready, and that the whole number of passengers for a day was only forty-five, and that now there are on some days 20,000 in the same time, we may rest assured that the prosperity of this goodly City is onward, "right onward."

Having for this year the management of the affairs of this growing City, Gentlemen, let us study a wise but liberal and progressive policy, and as far as in us lies, let us encourage "paying as we go."

CONCLUSION.

Called by the suffrages of our beloved City to her different posts of duty and honor, much of her growing prosperity will depend upon our conduct. In accepting the trusts thus delegated to us, we have done so with an implied pledge, that neither from self-interest or want of fidelity will we suffer these trusts to be neglected or impaired. Nay, more, we have here severally and collectively, taken a solemn oath that we will "faithfully and impartially," to the best of our "ability," discharge the several duties which have been assigned to us. These are not unmeaning words. The solemnities of the oath of this hour should be seriously pondered and religiously considered. That member of the Government who neglects to devote the requisite time and attention to the performance of the duties devolving on him, will not "faithfully" comply with the obligations of his

oath. Can he be said to be *impartial*, who makes use of his official station for private ends or party purposes, to the detriment of the public service? Hasty and ill-considered action on important measures, whether for or against them, is not according to his “best judgment.”

Let us, therefore, Gentlemen, keep constantly before us, during the year, in the discharge of all our duties, their magnitude and responsibility, viewed in reference to the oath just taken. Let us ever bear in mind, that absence from our post of duty, when others are in attendance, even if it be but a Committee of three, is unfaithfulness to the trust we have assumed, and detrimental to the public service. To a conscientious discharge of even minor duties, therefore, let me solicit your coöperation, with the full hope that by Divine favor, our united counsel and action may be for the prosperity and honor of our most cherished City.





FRAGILE

DO NOT
PHOTOCOPY